THEATRE COMIQUE—8—"Cordelia's Aspirations." THEATRE COMIQUE—S—"Storm Beaten."
UNION SQUARE THEATRE—S—"Storm Beaten."
WALLACK'S THEATRE—S—"An American Wife."
3D AVENUE THEATRE—S—"Sam" of Posen."
5TH AVENUE THEATRE—S—"The Glass of Fashion."
14TH STREET THEATRE—S—" Pop."

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FOUNDED BY HORACE GREELEY NEW-YORK, WEDNESDAY, DEC. 26.

THE NEWS THIS MORNING.

FOREIGN.-The International Exhibition was opened in Nice yesterday. — The steamer France met with an accident on Thursday, and was towed into Halifax. = The Chinese are making prepraations for the defence of the Red River delta. King Humbert has accepted an

ininvitation to visit Germany.

DOMESTIC.-J. J. McBride, an Irish Invincible of Buffalo, declares that a plot has been formed to blow up Canadian government buildings, to avenge O'Donnell's death. = C. H. McConnell, of Chieago, having leased Haverly's Theatre, isto remodel it after the New-York Casino. = There were foot races in the storm in Philadelphia. - St. Louis had two large fires. = Three white men in Yazoo City were riddled with buckshot by negroes in an affray. ___ An eastward-bound Pullman train on the Eastern road was partially wrecked Monday

night, but no passengers were hur.
Ctry and Suburban.—Further proofs are given to-day of Mr. Thompson's violations and evasions of law and of overpayments on contracts. Congressman O. B. Potter writes a letter opposing Mr. Thompson's scheme of a huge dam at Quaker Bridge, = About six inches of snow fell yesterday. = Christmas was observed in the usual way. = A young German took poison be cause his betrothed had been compelled by her parents to give him up. = A man was found to have shot himself on the grave of his little boy in Greenwood. = A policeman shot and seriously wounded a ruffian.

THE WEATHER.-TRIBUNE local observations in dicate cloudy and fair weather, with slight es of light snow early in the day. Temperature yesterday: Highest, 33°; lowest, 20°; average, 31°.

The shooting of Thomas Fitzpatrick by a patrolman, George Smith, in Ninth-ave. early yesterday morning, seems to have been a case of self-defence. The affair should be carefully examined into, how ever. Policemen are always more or less in danger of hard blows in attempting to make an arrest. They have to make up their minds to that when they join the force. Only the most imminent danger justifies the use of a pistol. But there is one man concerned in this case who is clearly within the grip of the authorities, and he ought to feel it. He is the owner of the liquor store in which the trouble began. His place was open at 2:45 a. m., an hour and a quarter later than the law allows It will be interesting to see if he is properly punished.

The story of the disgraceful mismanagement of the Public Works Department is continued in to-day's TRIBUNE, with many additional particulars. In 1880 the Legislature, passed a law requiring a reduction of ten per cent in the aggregate compensation paid persons employed the department. Instead of complying with the intent of the law Mr. Thompson has swelled his pay-rolls and increased the aggregate compensation 27 per cent. He has increased the cost of supplie for and cleaning of public offices 40 per cent, and he has increased the travelling expenses of his department over 100 per cent. In fact wherever there is a fund that offers opportun ities for waste and fraud, the expenditures under it have been enormously increased. The irregularities of this kind are scarcely secondary to the unbalanced bid frauds or the \$999 system of evading the statute in regard to

Christmas in this city was observed, yesterterday, much as it has been in past years, but perhaps more widely and more heartily. The severe snow-storm was not unwelcome, although it interfered with the out-of-doors amusementswhich many people now crowd into every holiday when it is possible. If the weather had been clear the avenues and the Park would have been brilliant with the beautiful sleighs and sleds, for which this city is now remarkable. In all the charitable instit utions there wa unlimited good cheer for the needy. It is painful to note, however, that the police record contains more deeds of violence than usual. The rougher element in the city seems to have felt the good influence of the day very little. But, to do him justice, the average New-York ruffian on most holidays pauses in his pursuit of crime and devotes himself to enjoyment, more or less decent, much like a respectable man.

A physician in Mt. Vernon calls the attention of THE TRIBUNE to certain dangers which lurk in the milk supplied to this city and its suburbs. and states his belief that the Board of Health wastes its strength in looking after skim-milk while neglecting that which is more harmful to use. The facts mentioned in the letter referred

we know of which will disclose the presence of requisite standard of richness and in every way seems pure. It would be more reasonable to intrust them to Democrats without giving to say that the responsibility rests on the dairymen who do not feed and water their stock properly; and even then, in most cases, it is ignorance of sanitary principles rather than intentional neglect which is at the bottom of the trouble. Only through some such plan as the Mt. Vernon physician suggests, in connection with the Bureau of Vital Statistics, does there seem to be a chance of tracing the source of dangerous milk.

There is no more important question now before the people of this city than that in regard to building a stupendous dam at Quaker Bridge, as proposed by Commissioner Thompson. The merits of the question are little understood; hence the letter of Congressman O. B. Potter on this subject, printed in to-day's TRIBUNE, is timely as well as forcible. It is clear that it would be most unfortunate for the city to undertake at this time the construction of the dam. If ever built it can be done as cheaply, as Mr. Potter shows, after the new aqueduct has been constructed to Croton Lake. It would be worse than folly to place the additional water supply of the city at the mercy of a flume for many years, while a dam without precedent as to height and cost is being erected. But it seems even more strange, when a different course can be so easily followed, that any sensible person should propose to draw the water supply of the city from an enormous stagnant pond which can never be cleaned. If undertaken it is safe to say that the proposed dam will be even more costly than the Brooklyn Bridge. It will require the city to build in addition to the dam, and forever maintain, several bridges, one of which would be 1,200 feet long and 125 feet high, and two others of which would be nearly as long. The would open a wonderful field for politicians and unbalanced bid contractors, but it would be at an enormous cost to the city.

"IN THE SADDLE AGAIN." Twenty-five States are going to govern this ountry, so far as it is governed by the Demeratic House, There are fifty-three committees, which control all action. The first and econd places on these committees are parcelled racy as The Utica Observer, that feels prompted out to fourteen Southern and eleven Northern States-an average of more than four places to each of these States. Meanwhile, thirteen States have no share in controlling legislation in the House through the leadership of its committees, and only twelve Southern States and nine Northern States have chairmanships.

But the committees differ very widely in importance. The chairmanship gives a member the control of a room, and a private secretary at public expense, and various other perquisites, but does not necessarily give him any real control over legislation. The ten committees first named in the official lists control a large share of the legislation which affects the whole country, namely: the Committees on Elections, of which Georgia has the chairmanship; Ways and means, Illinois; Appropriations, Pennsylvania; Judiciary, Virginia; Banking and Currency, Missouri; Coinage, Missouri; Commerce, Texas; Rivers and Harbors, Kentucky; Agriculture, Missouri, and Foreign Affairs, Pennsylvania. Thus, out of these ten important places, seven go to Southern and offly three to Northern States. Second to the chairmen on these ten committees are eight members from the South and only two from the North. Of these twenty places of the largest influence, Missouri alone has five, Georgia and Texas two North Carolina, Alabama and Louisiana one each, in all fifteen for the South; while Pennsylvania gets three, and Illinois and New-York each one, in all five for the Northern States. The remaining committees, forty-three in

number, may be divided into two classes. About fourteen control legislation on special the Committee on Military Affairs has a California chairman: Naval Affairs, New-York Postal, Mississippi; Railways and Canals, Florida: Public Lands, Indiana: Indians, Texas; Territories, South Carolina; Mississippi River, Louisiana; Patents, North Carolina; Education, South Carolina; Pensions, Alabama; Claims, Tennessee; Revision of Laws, Alabama; and Rules, Kentucky. Thus eleven of these second-class chairmanships go to the South, and only three to the North. Of the members standing second on these committees, the division is just the same : eleven to the South and three to the North. All the other standing committees are practically impotent; they control no legislation of any general interest, and might about as well be abolished, but for the convenience of the chairmen, or the service which some of them render in facilitating routine business. For all general purposes. the twenty-four committees named will govern the country so far as the House can govern it. and eighteen of these have chairmen from twelve Southern States, while only six have chairmen from five Northern States. Less than half of the States will thus virtually control all legislation on subjects of permanent and general interest. The loyal soldiers who seek pensions must go to Hewitt of Alabama for a hearing, or to his second, Tillman of South Carolina. The loval soldiers who have settled in the Territories must look for legislation to Evins of South Carolina or Pryor of Alabama. The interests of railways and canals, mainly at the North, will be cared for by Davidson of Florida. The farmers of the Northwest who have legislation to propose will address Hatch of Missouri or Aiken of South Carolina: our harbors and rivers are under the care of Willis of Kentucky and Blanchard of Louisiana; our National commerce is intrusted to Reagan of Texas and Clardy of Missouri, and contested elections to Turner of Georgia or Davis of Missouri.

The questions which affect the industry and business of the country most closely will be passed upon by the Committees on Ways and Means, Banking and Coinage. The Ways and Means has a chairman from Illinois, but five of his associates are from the South, and seven of the thirteen are Free Traders. The Banking and Currency Committee goes to Mr. Buckner of Missouri, whose hostility to the National banking system has been proved by votes and speeches without number. Finally, the question of Coinage goes to Mr. Bland of Missouri, author of the intolerable silver bill which provided, not for limited silver coinage-that we have found bad enough-but for unlimited coinage of silver. From such committees, what hope is there of wise and honorable legislation ?

Including all the committees, standing and select, important and unimportant, there are twenty-eight chairmen from twelve Southern States, and twenty-five from nine Northern States, but nineteen of the Northern chairmanships are of standing committees that have no power, or of select committees. Of the fifty-three men who stand second on committees, thirty-five are from the South. Thus the whole number of persons who have first or second places is sixty-three from the South and to are worth serious attention; but we fail to forty-three from the North. It is said, no

see that the blame rests entirely, or chiefly, on doubt with truth, that Mr. Carlisle did not the health authorities. There is no test that | desire to make a selection that would expose his party to this censure. But he could not germs of disease in milk which comes up to the help it. He was obliged to place Democrats in charge of his committees. And he could not the South an altogether undue share of power in the Government. If he sought for men of brains and experience for important places, he had to take most of them from the South. So it comes to pass that, under a Democratic majority, the South is of necessity placed in control of the Government, empowered to frame our tariffs, to pay the war debt, to pass upon claims and pensions, to provide for Northern commerce and trade and agriculture, and to frame the laws upon which Northern industry depends. That is exactly what Democratic victory means-"the South in the saddle again.

MEETING THE TEST.

THE TRIBUNE took occasion, the other day, to remind the Democratic State officers-elect that an excellent opportunity would soon be afforded them to demonstrate their real convictions touching practical Civil Service Reform. We pointed out that there could be no doubt of the nature of those convictions, when it was seen what disposition the Controller, Attorney-General and State Engineer made of the subordinate places of their respective departments.

Well, unless the burden of the news that comes from Albany is strangely at fault, the great cause of Civil Service Reform is not to receive much encouragement from these gentlemen. The Democratic Treasurer retains the present deputy of his department. The present deputy is a Democrat. On the other hand, the Democratic Attorney-General and State Engineer remove the present deputies of their departments. The present deputies are Republicans. So there would seem to be warrant for saying that the Deputy Treasurer is retained because he is a Democrat, and the other deputies are removed because they are Republicans. As to the Controller-elect, it is now given out that he will retain the present Republican deputy of his department. We trust the report is well founded, and if it proves to be we shall not be backward in awarding Mr. Chapin the full recognition due him as a Civil Service Reformer in the concrete. And we beg to remind him that it is not this paper, but so trustworthy an exponent of Democto ask the question : "Did Mr. Chapin make this decision [to retain a Republican deputy] because he thought it was right, or because the Republican organs have been loudly blow-"ing of late about Civil Service Reform?" Does The Observer call this backing its friends? Why should it insinuate that Mr. Chapin is capable of acting in a public relation from any other than a purely patriotic reason I

The fate of the clerks of the departments whose deputies are to be superseded, or of the Controller's Department, does not yet appear. It is possible that the Attorney-General-elect and the State Engineer-elect are earnest Civil Service Reformers, but believe in drawing the line at deputies. A few days will determine just how it is.

THE ESTIMATE FOR PARK EXPENSES.

Before the Board of Estimate and Apportionment closes its work it should well consider its responsibilities as to the Budget of the Park Department. The voice of the city press has unanimously pronounced this Department the grotesque caricature of a municipal machine. Blustering now and cringing next week, it is unadvised, inefficient, and misdirected always, and no man whose opinion is worth quoting has each, and Kentucky, Virginia, South Carolina, yet declared that he considers it worthy of confidence. Mayor Edson has ventured to say that it is not so bad as it has been, and no doubt this indgement was based upon the fact that he had selected half of it. But looking back over a year of maladministration the people can discover no ground for encouragement or hope from the Mayor's appointees. If they did not band with Christian charity. Nowhere in ubjects of permanent importance, and of these dilute the intelligence and executive vigor of Christendom are the poor remembered so genthin before they entered. No act of the year can be pointed to as showing penetration or purpose to be commended. now it remains for the Board of Apportionment to say whether they are in accord with the people or with the Park Department. The Board of Apportionment will be held accountable for the expenditures of the Department for the coming year, and if the demand for extravagant grants of money for questionable purposes is yielded to, the responsibility will surely prove an oppressive one.

Here, for example, is that \$50,000 for propagating-houses. This money will easily cover 50,000 square feet with glass, and an establishment of such proportions would farnish, if well managed, 50,000 plants a week through all the growing season. Aside from the fact that these plants could be bought more cheaply from commercial growers than they will be raised under park management, there is the danger that the Park lawns which have escaped the mania for formal bedding will break out next summer with blotches of coleus and geranium. It has come to our knowledge that this scheme of decoration" is contemplated. The artists now in charge of the Park do not understand that while formal beds of flowers and foliage may have a place in connection with architectural lines and rigid boundaries, they are as truely artifical as any structure of masonry or carpentry and can only mar a natural landscape. There is no danger of having too many flowers of the right kind in the right place. On the brink of brooks, by the wayside, in shrubbery borders, the flowers which choose their homes in such places are always attractive. How beautiful our perennial wild flowers are when naturally disposed can be seen by any one next spring who will visit the "unimproved ground" which General Viele selected for his wild beasts to root and wallow in. But enough of these modest natives of wood and field (the flowers, that is, and not the beasts) can be had without an acre and a half of greenhouse.

Again, consider the tens of thousands asked for Riverside Park. As designed by Mr. Olmstead this was a most dignified work, and if properly completed it will be one of the city's most cherished possessions. Last year Mr. Vaux made some careful studies for developing it in the line of its original conception. All this has been brushed aside, however, for no one can believe that the dirt hauling and heaping at the northern end of the drive has been sanctioned by a man of Mr. Vaux's taste. Whose plan is the alleged engineer following? Is there any plan? What has been done with the money, \$65,000 or so, spent on the work this year? Here is a board which has forfeited public confidence, and yet without making any statement to justify past expenditures they come to demand more money without any explanation of what they propose to do with it. The only certainty is that if left to their own devising the work will not be creditable and the strong probability is that it will be defacement and ruin.

A big appropriation for Riverside Drive will insure a long pay-roll with the employment of many unskilled laborers and thoroughly trained just now hankering after.

THE CHRISTMAS FEAST.

The Christmas festival originally marked a reaction against worldliness and riotous revelry. The early Christians had no fixed day for celebrating the birth of the Messiah. The traditions of various Churches differed in regard to the date, although there was a general concurrence of opinion respecting the midnight hour. Several days in December were mentioned as the date of the Nativity, and in some communities no distinction was made between it and the Epiphany; and there was a disposition in some quarters of the miniature Christian world to deprecate the observance of special days, and to commemorate every day in the year the birth, life, death and resurrection of the Redeemer. The impulse to determine a precise date and to convert the day of the Nativity into a sacred festival came from the early Church of Rome. The Saturnalia, a religious feast in the days of the Republic, had degenerated under the Empire into a carnival of revelry, intemperance and crime. For the better part of a week in mid-December, ordinary business was suspended and the populace of Rome abandoned themselves to holiday indulgence, street parades and brawls, gluttonous feasts and criminal excesses. These were the red-letter days of a Paganism that had abandoned self-restraint, renounced morality, and ceased to have faith in anything higher than ignoble pleasures and degrading passions. It was to emphasize their contempt for this brutal and riotous festival that the Christians at Rome established their religious feast. It was simply a Christ-mass-a special service of prayer, praise and communion, held in the lonely watches of the night

when the Divine Child was reputed to have

been born.

While Christmas was originally a religious holiday, consecrated to secret prayer and midnight worship, at a season when the pagan world was abandoning itself to worldliness and sensuality, it has retained many of the characteristic features of the ancient festival of the Saturnalia. The Roman children under the Republic as well as the Empire were accustomed to receive presents in the joyous days of December-cheap, tawdry and clumsy in comparison with the jewelled, gold-laced dolls and thousand-and-one mechanical devices and ingenious toys of to-day, but none the less tokens of affection in the household. There was an immense attendance at the gladiatorial combats and town shows, precisely as the theatres of to-day do their largest business in Christmas week. The dinners during the Saturnalia were the most sumptuous of the year, just as the Christmas dinner now holds the highest calendar rank in Germany, England and America. Indeed, if we go back only a little way toward the Middle Age, it will be to find signs of the Pagan Saturnalia in its worst estate-the grotesque follies, the inordinate feasting, the ribaldry andlicentiousness and the wanton crime, against which the Christmas-mass was a solemn protest and warning. But the day has never ceased to have its religious fervor and significance, even when austere and bigoted Protestants have set their faces sternly against it. Not one of the Christian centuries has lost the lesson of the festival, even when men had to preach it to themselves without a Bible which they were able to read, and with only a little child in the household to remind them of the innocence of the Christ-Child.

There is no reason to believe that in America the religious fervor has departed. As the prejudices of Paritan ancestry have been gradually overcome, the festival year by year is more generally celebrated in churches of all denominations. Baptist colleges have deferred their holiday recess from . Day to Christmas; Christmas sermons are heard from Congregational pulpits: and Christmas carols are sung in Methodist schools. Practical beneficence goes hand-inusly as in American cities. The genuine Christmas spirit of good-will to men shines through the matter-of-fact Yankee holiday. Originality may be lacking in the customs, but neither fervor in the worship nor kindly feeling for the poor. Americans have certainly a characteristic way of observing Christmas, even if they have no distinctive traditions or associations. They keep the feast with true Yankee energy, exhausting themselves, body and mind, with the press and rush of holiday traffic, enlarging year by year the number, if not adding to the cost, of their Christmas gifts, and incurring the risk of sacrificing the serene restfulness of the day by undue preparation and overwork. But they also keep the feast with sincerity and truth-the best characteristics of the Christian Saturnalia of all ages.

The ancient and honorable family of Grady is largely represented on the pay-rolls of the Department of Public Works. Is it possible that any of these worthy gentlemen are kin to the Tammany senator who so suddenly stopped his highly promising investigation of the department in May, 1882

The iron manufacturers of Pittsburg, according to statements by Mr. Weeks, secretary of the Western Association, feel very gloomy because Mr. Carlisle has formed precisely such a Ways and Means Committee as was to be expected. But it would be well for them to remember that Mr. Morrison was chairman of this committee once before. Then, as now, it was said by free-trade journals when he was appointed, "the Speaker has thrown down the gauntlet of irreconcilable hostility to protectionists." Then, as now, we were told that Democratic "dodgers were to be driven into a corner," and that the House would pass a bill and "throw the responsibility of defeating it upon the Senate. Then Mr. David A. Wells and Mr. "Parsee " Moore framed a Tariff bill at Mr. Morrison's request, and there was a great fuss made about it until about the end of April. Then Presidential speculations began to occupy the minds of patriots. A second conference was held, and Mr. Tilden's nomination was determined upon as a necessity. Some mysterious atrophy seized the Tariff bill, and Mr. Morrison, with unutterable disgust, formally abandoned his efforts to screw Democrats up to the pitch of voting for it. By the middle of June, the same free-trade organ which had hailed Mr. Morrison's appointment was publishing bilious editorials about "The Free-Trade Corpse," and other kindred topics, and things were made ready for another Republican victory in November. It is not entirely mpossible that history may repeat itself. There is Mr. Carlisle, to be sure, but he is not more honest nor more uncompromising than Mr. Kerr was in 1876. A Presidential election looms up in the distance, as it did then. We suspect that Mr. Morrison is booked for another fit of unspeakable disgust. But if he should succeed better this time, even so far as to pass through the House a Tariff bill of the kind desired by him and Messrs, Wells and Moore, there is a Republican Senate. And after that, if necessary, there is a Republican President. Pittsburg need not sit down in sackcloth and

A contractor who has obtained a number of city contracts on unbalanced bids, in talking about the matter a day or two ago, said with a laugh, "Oh, we just went for all the money we could get. Everybody does that when it is city money." There is a great deal of truth in that remark. And it is especially true of Mr. Thompson's most intimate voters. But a New-Year's present of this sort | friends and associates-Maurice B. Flynn, Richard | its fange.

is not what this swindled and tax-ridden city is A. Cunningham and the rest. But the day of reckoning draws near.

PERSONAL.

Levy David Cerf, for forty years leader of the claque at the Opéra, in Paris, is dead. He was born on the day of Marie Antoinette's execution (1793); was present at the battles of Lutzen and Leipzig; was a St. Helena medallist, and retired form the Opéra on the accession of the present manager. His operations are described by the Figaro: "Seated in the front row of the pit, having a part of his forces around him, while the others were placed in the second gallery, he directed from his seat, by his stick, the intensity and the duration of the applasue. A short, sharp rap on the floor meant that the claque was to confine itself to a moderate clapping of hands; but when he gave a rapid and prolonged movement of rotation to his stick, his followers knew that they were to indulge in an outburst of enthusiasm, recall the actor on the stage, and give him an 'ovation.'"

Benjamin F. Butler, who is soon to be ex-Governor of Massachusetts for the remainder of his natural life, was in Washington the other day, and, according to The Chronicle of that city, tried to get into the Senate Chamber by a door the keeper of which didn't or wouldn't recognize him. "You can't go in there, sir," said the doorkeeper, "the Senate is in session." Butler merely growled out, "I'm Butler," and persisted in his effort to enter. "Oh, no, my antiquated masher," said the other, with a my antiquated masher," said the other, with a wink at a bystander, "you can't play me for a sucker. Senator Butler has just gone in through this door. Mash 'em from the gallery, my dandy." General Butler was paralyzed for a moment, and then wheeling upon the astonished door-keeper, he fairly yelled: "Butler of South Carolina be d.—d, I am Butler of Massachusetts. Governor Butler, you impudent fool," and amid the profuse apologies of the doorkeeper he entered the Chamber.

Mr. John Sartain recently wrote of his view of Mr. Hanisch's model of the statue of Calhonn which is to be placed on the Calhoun monument in Charleston, S. C.: "My first impression was pleasurable surprise; surprise at the magnitude of the work and pleasure at the style and character of its execution. The action of the right hand and the expression of the face convey the idea of a man reasoning closely. He appears to have risen from his chair and to be in the act of addressing an audience. The weight of his body is thrown chiefly on the right leg, and the left is advanced forward in an easy position and bent at the knee, of course. The face is wrought to an artistic finish, and I judge must be a good likeness from the conception I have formed from portraits said to be good. The drapery is gracefully disposed, and with a free and bold execution, so important for effect, especially in large work."

A writer in The Foston Courier says of his expe rience with the Rev. Joseph Cook and his lectures: 'I had frequently looked over, but had never been able to make much out of them. One night, when I felt particularly wakeful, I went down-stairs to the sitting-room, with two dictionaries (Webster and Worcester), a 'Thesaurus of English Words,' and a copy of The Daily Advertiser, with a full report of his latest lecture. Thus equipped I set to work at the discourse and went through it steadily from beginning to end. The result was that I found that I had no eathly idea what the reverend orator that I had no eathly idea what the reverend orator had been talking about, and I had a list of nine words which he had slung at his audience with great coolness, but which were not to be found in any of the dictionaries. Determined not to be beaten, I wrote to the Messrs. Merriam, the publishers of Webster, and asked what the words meant. They replied they did not know, and I acknowledged myself floored. As Mr. Lincoln once said, appropos of something else, 'for those who like that sort of thing I should think it would be just the sort of thing that they would like,' but as for me, I have really no use for it.'

TALKS ABOUT TOWN.

A NEW AMERICAN COMEDY. Sheridan Shook, Union Square.-We have not fully de termined to produce Bartley Campbell's new play, but will probably do so after the run of "Storm Beaten." It was read to the company on Monday, but nothing was then decided. It is a comedy of American fashionable life based on the rage of society women to go on the stage It is broadly comical in most of the scenes, but illustrate also the serious troubles arising from the desire of a wife to pose on the stage against her husband's wishes.

MORE TRIBULATIONS OF AN AUTHOR. Judge Frederic G. Gedney, 8th District Court. I object, à la Justice Murray, to being quoted when talking off the bench. You shall hear the plot, and music, too, of "The Culprit Fay" if I have to get the whole force of Police Captains to hold you in a seat. That play will be pro duced if I empty the County Treasury, à la Thompson, to

THE SUNDAY OPENING ISSUE. T. Addison Richardson, Artist.—The crowd in attendane was not of the class of laboring men and women for whomit was argued the Loan Exhibition should be opened Sunday It was a fullure in that sense. The Loan Exhibition on other days has not been a success, generally

F. Hopkinson Smith, Art Director.-There were 3,600 ersons here on Sunday. I saw artisans sketching obects on exhibition, including the rare gold work, furniture, onzes, etc; they were persons I am sure who are wood carvers, jewellers, giass workers and moulders. And one fron worker interested a group around him in the room where the armor is displayed by describing the process of its manufacture. The museums and libraries of this city ought to be open on Sundays in winter as much as the Parks and Concy Island are in summer, and at as cheap or cheaper rates than the latter are. A small fee ought to be charged to keep out the class which would loaf in there merely to keep warm and who would drive away the sober and industrious poor.

Ex-Senator " Tom " Greamer, Counsel to the Board of Excise. - The liquor business in this city is becoming a mono poly. The big brewers pick up smart barkeepers, establish them on a corner, take a mortgage on their stock and fixtures, scatter their ready-made signs through the city by thousands, and practically control the business, One of these brewers said to me the other day, "You are onnected with the Excise Board, are you not!" him I was. "You fellows are mighty slow," he said granting licenses down there.' you men going to stop ! Presently you will ask for an aqueduct to carry beer down the reservoir built in Central Park." I think the outside dealers ought to organize for their own protection.

GENERAL NOTES.

First appearances and a dispatch founded upon them describing the arrest of Dr. J. G. Clyne, of Cleveland, Ohio, on the charge of stealing a diamond ring from Mrs. Ida Seafert did injustice to that gentleman. Dr. Clyne has proved that he lost the ring, for which offered a recompense, and the judge has dismissed action, pronouncing it preposterous.

An analysis of matrimonial advertisements Germany shows that three times as many women as men seek partners in that manner; that women are far ess particular about age than men, but far more particu-

A model soup-house has just been established a Chicago. A well-cooked substantial meal is furnished for 10 cents, and is given gratuitously to those who Pary be unable to pay that sum. Charitable people buy a

Meetings have been recently held in London by the Council of the National Society for Preserving the Memorials of the Dead. Among the subjects discussed were the extension of the work of copying the fast decaying monumental inscriptions at Norwich, the retoration of the tomb of Morant the Essex historian, at Odham, and the replacement of Dean Cannon's mon n Westminster Adbey. Steps were also taken to fill the Important monumental inscriptions in Ex-carefully copied.

A few months ago a man mysteriously disappeared from Georgetown, Ky. Far many weeks after his disappearance his dog went daily to a lonely spot and kept up a furious barking. A female clairoyant who came into the neighborhood explained the log's conduct by telling of a horrible murder committed there. The spot was searched, and the remains of the man who had disappeared were found. The dog has since been accidently shot, but the clairwoyant has been raised to the pinnacle of fame in the neighborhood.

In the Columbia Veterinary College Hospital at Philadelphia is a lively little Scotch terrier which responds to the name of "Snakes"-a singular name for dogs in general but not for this particular dog, for his present vocation is to act as a medium for testing a preparation which it is hoped may prove to be an antite for the venom of snakes. Various experiments have already been made on other animals but they were unsatisfactory for one reason or another. "Snakes" has survived the bite of a large rattler, which, however, had previously been suffered to bite another dog, and there-fore may not have retained a fatal amount or venom in

MUSIC.

THE ITALIAN OPERA SEASON. The adjournment of operatic pleasures is to be only long enough to enable our people to devote mselves to the enjoyments of Christmas week. Mr. Mapleson's supplemental season of nine nights is announced to begin on next Monday, and Mr. Abbey will return from Boston week after net to supply two evenings of the thirty subscribed for by his patrons. His nights will be Wednesday and Friday and as he has made the strongest selection of operas possible for him, and will throw in a matinee, with "Carmen" as the attraction, Mr. Mapleson will be only partly successful in his efforts to escape from the aggressive ravalry that has pursued him thus far.

We are still living under the old operatic dispen-

sation, and, as things go, Mr. Abbey's first season, which was ended practically on Monday evening. can be called brilliant. An equal degree of merit has not marked all his efforts, and some of the features of the season have scarcely been worthy of his proud establishment; but, on the whole, he has made a heroic effort to galvanize into vitality the decaying body of Italian opera. He has shown an honest desire to keep the promises which he made when he asked public support for his enterprise, and altogether his administration has displayed virtues which too frequently are absent from the manager's office. His stage sets have been uniformly handsome, and some of them have shown greater sumptuousness than we have seen for many years at least: his orchestra, though open to critici the score of its composition as well as style of play. has done admirable work; his chorus has been prompt, vigorous and generally tuneful; his enembles have been carefully composed, and his selection of operas has been judicious from a manager's point of view. Besides these things he has given to New-York the strongest combination of women singers that the city has ever known. Such a galaxy as Mesdames Nilsson, Sembrich, Trebelli, Scalchi, Fursch-Mādi and Valleria could not be matched if the two most brilliant companies of Europe should be combined. Without exception the principal women's parts in the operas have been brilliantly filled. Mme. Nilsson's tragic power has seemed riper and more effective than on her first visit, and what she has lost during the decade in freshness and range of voice she has made up in deeper dramatic intelligence and breadth of action. In Mme. Sembrich we have an artist with a rare combination of gifts-a voice of lovely quality; vocal skill high order; keen dramatic instincts, and a thoroughly musical nature. If the men have been less satisfactory, the reason is found at once in the expensiveness of such a woman's department. In this enumeration of the factors with which Mr. Abbey has won a commendable degree of artistic success, the new house ought not to be forgotten. Appreciation of its excellencies of architecture, decoration, arrangement and acoustics, has grown steadily since opening night.

Mr. Abbey has yet the spring season before him to prove whether or not he was too generous in his promises touching his repertory. his prospectus he asserted that he would give twenty-four operas, which he named. Up to date he has performed fourteen, which is an average of a change every second evening. In the remainder of the list, however, there are operas like "Il Profeta," "Gli Ugnotti. 'Amleto," "Otello," (Rossini's) "Le Nozze di Figaro" and "Carmen," and to bring these out in addition to "Lucretia Borgia," "Linda di Chamou-ni," "Fra Diavolo" and "Marta," will tax Mr, Abbey's resources severely. The greater number of his list of given operas are of the light order, and the severest work remains to be done; but after such an exhibition of energy as accompanied the production of "La Gioconda," we are inclined to think that Mr. Abbey can fulfill his promise to the letter. The following list shows the operas given during the season in the order of their first performance:

estion concerning the future of opera in New-

La Sonnambula, Roberto il Diavolo, Rigoletto, Il Barbiera di Siviglia, Faust, Lucia di Lammermoor, Il Trovatore, I Puritani, Mignon, La Traviata, La Gloconda. It was not without significance to the impending

York that the operas of greatest artistic worth attracted the most numerous audiences to see them. The nights on which "Lohengrin," "Don Giovanni" and "Mefistofele" were given shared their brilliancy only with the night which marked the culmination of the season by the production of a brand new work, Ponchielli's "Gioconda." The profound impression made by this opera we are intion of the popular hunger for something new than as a tribate to the dramatic and musical merits of the joint production of Signori Boito and Ponchielli. These merits are unmistakable, but they do not entitle the opera to a place in the first rank. In the list of successful new productions within the last few years "Gioconda" must yield precedence to "Alda," "Menstofele" and 'Carnen." It does not show its composer to be either a melodist of really high type, or a fertile originator of musical effects. Its score is full of ingeniously applied harmonical and orchestral devices, but they are all, or nearly all, such as have been learned from Sig. Ponchielli's predecessors, Sig. Ponchielli is less original than Sig. Boîto, and both owe more to Sig. Verdi's example than to their own creative ability. There is besides so much dramatic vigor in the play of the opera, and so quick a co-operation of the music in the critical moments, the and listeners are swept along on such a tide of excitement that they are not as on such a tide of excitement that they are not as sensible as they might be of the obviousness of the means employed by the anth r. It is a high order of constructive skill that has put "Gloconda" together, and the element of contrast has seldom so completely and so effectively been made to dominate an art work. It makes every climax and is used with almost tiresome iteration. In the first act La Cicca's prayer is put against a background composed of a gambling chorus, and the furlano (a wild dance—ith the incessant movement of a tarantelle endsabruptly with organ pealsand a pious canticle; in the second act within two bars Allegro, La Giocondo is transformed from a murderous devil to a protecting saint; in the third act Laura's accounts of mortal woe commingle with the sounds of a a protecting saint; in the third act Laura's accents of mortal wee commingle with the sounds of a serenade in the distance, and the disclosure of the supposed murder is made in the midst of a ball; in the fourth act the calls of passing gondolicrs break in upon La Gioconaa's soliloquies, that have for their subject suicide, murder, self-sacrifice, and the highest of charities. These devices are of course tissue, and we are not surprised that they have Boito for their author (or rather adapter), notwith standing "Mefistofele." The ideality in that opera has been greatly overestimated. "Gioconda" will live, a valuable addition to the operatic repertory, so long as we depend upon the present Italian sysong as we depend upon the present Italian sys The spectacle that opera has presented this season

so long as we depend upon the present Italian system.

The spectacle that opera has presented this season has been one of extremely great interest in more respects than one. It has had as great significance for London as for New-York, and it has been watched quite as closely there as here, and with perhaps, better knowledge of the real stake that is being played for. Opera in New-York has for a long time been merely a weak reflection of opera in London. The few new operas which have been brought out here within a dozen years have been brought out primarily because they had been previously produced in London. The reason is not because Americans affect to follow Englishmen in musical taste, but because the purchase from an Italian, French or German composer of the right to perform his work in England has carried with it the legal right at least to produce it here as well. Having the score there was nothing to prevent. But the spar that is always in the flank of an entrepreneur in London, has been wanting here. The community of knowing masic lovers is much smaller; it is drawn from a population not more than one-fifthas large as that of London. Our operatic traditions are vagne, our ideals shadowy, and the purely social motive has been stronger in determining the degree of support to be given to the manager, than the character of his eutertainment. Hence we have always suffered from the extremest phase of the "star" system. The London public have not escaped the misery, indeed they are now in the culmination of it, but they have been more exacting in their demands, and the performances at Covent Garden, even in its decadence, have been at least more varied than ours. The virtual failure of the Royal Italian Opera Company, formed to put an end to the rivalry between Mr. Gye and Mr. Mapleson, the appearance on the field of Mr. Abbey, with a stronger equipment than has been seen for decades, the presence in an American city of a constellation of stars, brilliant enough to illuminate the skies of three or four Europea